

# Mille grazie Milan

Almost 300 delegates attend EAUN's annual meeting in Milan

# Milan

26-29 March 2008



**Bente Thoft Jensen**  
Chair EAUN  
Århus (DK)

common goals to achieve a team spirit (EAU 2008 Congress Newsletter, 2nd edition p. 6).

## Decisive steps

Many small but decisive steps have already been taken to give the EAUN new directions and the dynamism it needs. During the past year, we have been busy setting up new bylaws, a more coherent structure, and a focused strategy and marketing. Intensified contacts with European national societies have paid off. Their representatives have exerted a lot of effort in assisting the EAUN to produce a new booklet, which was launched in Milan, in our series "Good Practice in Health Care."

Aside from the contributions to the EUT Newsletter, national societies were also actively involved in the new mobile EAUN booth set up during the annual meetings of national groups. Having realised the importance of such promotional activities, we will continue to building up communication and information platforms that effectively connect the members of national societies with the EAUN and other pan-regional associations of urology nursing.

The board is also deeply appreciative to have the participation and support of many of our internationally renowned expert colleagues in our 2008 Milan meeting. Their involvement and presence convey the fact that urological nursing concerns itself with an overarching span of issues, clearly a challenge to us all. As a result, we have further firmed up current and new initiatives at this year's congress.

## Clinical issues

The topics on the second EAUN congress day were all focussed on current clinical issues and developing targets in urological nursing. The lectures and discussions were definitely attractive to participants as reflected in the full meeting room. A sponsored workshop introduced and presented hands-on training in redefining cystoscopy using the Endosheath technology. Many participants appreciated the interactive format since it presented the opportunity, perhaps for many nurses, to try their first "hands-on cystoscopy."

We were again reminded of real and pressing issues in nursing in a workshop titled "Nurse-led urology clinics - the UK Experience," presented by Tom Ladds (GB), chair of the British Association of Urology Nurses (BAUN). The workshop described the expanding role of nursing and the demands faced by nurses in the UK.



Tom Ladds presenting on Nurse-led urology clinics in the UK



"...as reflected in a full meeting room.."

The lecture was not only very informative but also touched on the very crucial issue of the nurse's role in urology from a future perspective. Clearly, Ladds' topic brought to the fore the impact of social and technological developments on nursing all over Europe.

As expected the European School of Urology provided a very informative course that gave pertinent information on treatment options and the highlights in neurourology nursing that are all crucial in the management of the neurogenic bladder.

## State-of-the-art lectures

The series of state-of-the-art lectures also underscored the new directions in urology nursing. Prof. A.P. Baranowski from London (GB) spoke on a new team approach that tackles poorly understood chronic conditions and pain management in urology. This breakthrough in traditional management shows the important role of the urology nurse, and was illustrated by a new and expanding centre for urogenital pain medicine in London. At the centre, nurses often play an important role in identifying the patients who are most at risk and also provide medical support through patient education regarding chronic pain mechanisms.

The lecture "How to implement new strategies" by V. Krøll and I. Madsen, Århus (DK) addressed the importance of using a knowledge-based nursing practice in order to improve the quality of nursing care. Moreover, the presentation also described the experience of establishing an international centre (located in Århus, DK) for clinical guidelines that facilitate knowledge exchange, share nursing expertise and skills, and thereby build effective links between training, research and clinical practice.

The Astra Tech symposium, which closed the first day, presented an outstanding multidisciplinary presentation on "No touch" catheterisation in a hospital setting. The participants were given a comprehensive overview and the salient implications in an introduction to the prevalence of bacteriuria and urinary tract infections in a hospital setting. The background information clearly reinforced the need for a "no touch technique" defining the rationale for using such a procedure. Registered nurse S. Caselli (Imola, IT), presented the practical use of sterile and "no-touch technique" in a spinal cord unit of an Italian hospital. (Further details about this symposium can be found in the article on Page 39).

## EAUN Board

Chair	Bente Thoft Jensen (DK)
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# eaun

As shown in the 9th International EAUN Meeting held in Milan, urology nursing is becoming more and more a key issue for urological professionals. With almost 300 delegates to this year's EAUN meeting, the relatively young organisation has clearly realised its aim to achieve a more active and prominent international profile.

Prof. Per-Anders Abrahamsson, EAU Secretary General, who opened the congress officially, underscored urological nursing's pivotal role as he emphasised the need to forge strong partnerships with the EAUN in view of the challenges in urology. Obviously, the growth of urology in the future is more closely linked with what other disciplines, such as nursing, can contribute to the field.



Enjoying the Champagne reception

Dr. Dirk. Schultheiss, secretary of the History Office, gave his view on the iconic and important breakthroughs in urology during the last centuries, conveying that like in other human endeavours, medical progress and development steadily build on earlier successes and contributions. Meanwhile, Prof. Walter Artibani, EAU's Adjunct Secretary (Science), graced the EAUN's opening social programme Champagne Reception, a fitting occasion that enabled Prof. Artibani and the EAUN board to be acquainted. His interest and active engagement in our annual meeting is surely appreciated by the board and we look forward to work together with Prof. Artibani.

Moreover, we hope to have another 'VIP-touch' in next year's meeting as we plan to invite our colleagues from the EAU to join our sessions. Our members consider the participation of other medical specialists to be important since a highly representative professional gathering would be in line with our

Finally, to end a hectic first day, the "After session drinks" gave all participants that chance to network and catch up with colleagues from abroad.



Discussing Susanne Vahr's research project

## Second day

The second day of the congress opened with yet another new initiative: the EAUN Nursing Research Competition. Six excellent projects were presented and evaluated by an independent jury. The aim of the research competition is to encourage nurses to carry out their own research and offer them tips and tricks on how to execute research projects.

The nominees clearly exerted a lot of effort to make their presentations interesting and unique. Rita Willener from Berne, Switzerland won the € 2,500 prize, a win that even surprised her. With this initial success we will continue with this competition in cooperation with the sponsor. We also aim to fine-tune the competition for next year's meeting in Stockholm based on the insightful and constructive evaluations we have had.



Kate Fitzpatrick (presenting) is accepted in the EAUN board by the members voting at the EAUN General Assembly